

# BOROUGH OF WESTWOOD

Mayor John Birkner, Jr.



TELEPHONE (201) 664-7100 EXT. 106 • FAX (201) 664-5340 • 101 WASHINGTON AVENUE • WESTWOOD, NJ 07675  
EMAIL: JBIRKNER@WESTWOODNJ.GOV • WEBSITE: WWW.WESTWOODNJ.GOV

December 14, 2011

State of New Jersey  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Office of Local Government Assistance  
401 East State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Attn.: Cindy W. Randazzo

Re.: Pascack Valley Waterway Report

Dear Ms. Randazzo,

As you are aware, 2011 has been a devastating year for residents throughout the Pascack Valley region of New Jersey with regard to the numerous flooding events that have occurred. This has been a difficult and stressful time for all of us as we have helplessly witnessed the hardships realized by those so dramatically impacted.

In keeping with the objectives of the Pascack Valley Waterway Management Task Force that was established by resolution of the Pascack Valley Mayors Association, the Borough of Westwood has authorized Boswell-McClave Engineering to perform an analysis of the effect of the Woodcliff Lake Reservoir Dam on down stream flooding. The report has been completed and presented to the Westwood governing body for review. The findings support what has long been observed by residents who have experienced the effects of the chronic flooding problem that has plagued our region for decades.

One of the major findings of this report includes the recommendation for lowering the level of the Woodcliff Lake Reservoir to the "Winter Mode" levels of 91' elevation for the entire year around, and operating the bascule gates accordingly in effort to mitigate much of the "nuisance flooding" that impacts the area during heavy storm events.

The full text of this report and all appendices is posted on the Borough of Westwood website ([www.westwoodnj.gov](http://www.westwoodnj.gov)) and available for your review. Enclosed is a CD copy for your reference. I believe that this document contains the data and findings that will provide us the basis to petition the State of New Jersey to incorporate the recommended changes to the operational procedures of the Woodcliff Lake Dam and possibly the Oradell Reservoir Dam as well.

Please review this report and contact my office to arrange for a meeting to discuss in detail the necessary course of action to see that the recommended operational changes are implemented.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions or require additional information.

Warm wishes for a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday Season, and a Healthy New Year.

Borough of Westwood

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Birkner, Jr.", written over a faint, illegible background.

John Birkner, Jr. - Mayor  
(201) 664-7100 x 106